



U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing

Freedom of Religion or Belief in Syria

Panel



David Phillips is currently Director of the Program on Peacebuilding and Rights at Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights. Phillips has worked as a senior adviser to the United Nations Secretariat and as a foreign affairs expert and senior adviser to the U.S. Department of State. He has held positions as a visiting scholar at Harvard University's Center for Middle East Studies, executive director of Columbia University's International Conflict Resolution Program, director of the Program on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding at the American University, Associate Professor at New York University's Department of Politics, and as a professor at the Diplomatic

Academy of Vienna. He has also been a senior fellow and deputy director of the Council on Foreign Relations' Center for Preventive Action, a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States, a Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Director of the European Centre for Common Ground, project director at the International Peace Research Institute of Oslo, president of the Congressional Human Rights Foundation, and executive director of the Elie Wiesel Foundation.



Thomas Pierret is a Senior Researcher at Aix Marseille Université, CNRS, IREMAM, Aix-en-Provence, France. He focuses on politics and religion in modern Syria. His publications include *Religion and State in Syria. The Sunni Ulama from Coup to Revolution* (Cambridge University Press, 2013) and "Religious governance in Syria amid territorial fragmentation" In F. Wehrey ed. *Islamic Institutions in Arab States* (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2021).



Dastan Jasim is a Research Fellow at the GIGA Institute for Middle East Studies, a doctoral student at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, and a member of the GIGA Doctoral Programme. Her research focuses on the civic culture of Kurds in Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey, as well as on security developments in the Kurdish regions.



Max Hoffman is the Director of National Security and International Policy at the Center for American Progress, focusing on Turkey and the Kurdish regions; U.S. defense policy; and the intersection of climate change, human migration, and security concerns. He has organized and undertaken repeated research trips to Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon, Germany, and India. Prior to joining American Progress, Hoffman worked on disarmament and security issues for the United Nations and the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee. Hoffman has been published in a range of academic and news outlets. He received his M.A. in history from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.